

The Attorney General

January 16, 1958.

Director, FBI

Screened Date: 12-10-2019
DOCID: 34395855LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER
PAROLE VIOLATOR

I thought you would be interested in knowing that Lawson David Shirk Butler, who was once on the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives," is currently in custody of California authorities for violation of his parole.

This criminal, who has an unusually lengthy and violent background, has been the recipient of parole time and time again. He was first arrested at the age of 14 for first degree burglary but was released to the custody of his parents. Later in the same year, he was sent to a detention home as a result of another burglary. At the age of 15, he was convicted for armed robbery and served two years in a California reformatory. He was subsequently convicted four more times on robbery charges and was finally incarcerated at San Quentin in 1939 for armed robbery.

Butler was paroled from San Quentin in July, 1940, but was returned to that institution within four months as a result of another robbery, and, yet, he was granted another parole in 1945 which was suspended when he failed to maintain contact with parole officials.

This fugitive was finally located and arrested in 1947 and imprisoned in the Oregon State Penitentiary for a sentence of ten years for assault and armed robbery; however, he escaped in 1952, and it was following this escape that he was placed on our list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives." Butler was arrested by FBI Agents in Los Angeles in April, 1953, at which time he was returned to the Oregon State Penitentiary. Butler's identification record indicates that he was incarcerated at Folsom Penitentiary in California in 1956 after having been sentenced to a term of from 5 years for the crime of robbery.

It is almost inconceivable, but with this history of violent crime and parole violations behind him, Butler was granted another parole by California authorities on February 4, 1957, and it was for violation of this current act of clemency that this dangerous fugitive was apprehended. This is an extreme example of the soft treatment being afforded in all too many instances to hardened, dangerous criminals.

I - Mr. Lawrence E. Walsh
Deputy Attorney General

JTM:abs (8)

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JAN 25 1958

JAN 16 1958

Office Memorandum - UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nease

DATE: January 14, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: **LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER**
FORMER MEMBER OF "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES"
PROGRAM

An identification record, copy attached, for Butler, FBI Number 167 629, reflects that this vicious criminal formerly one of our "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" who has a long history of criminal acts against society has violated a parole by virtue of a robbery at Berkeley, California, after being paroled on 2-4-57. This is yet another instance of soft treatment given to the top criminals in this country.

BUTLER'S BACKGROUND:

Butler was first arrested at age of 14 for first degree burglary but released the same day to his parents. Later in 1928, he was sent to a juvenile detention home in California for another burglary. In 1929, he was convicted for armed robbery and served two years in a California reformatory. He was subsequently convicted 4 more times on robbery charges and was incarcerated in San Quentin Penitentiary in 1939 for armed robbery. He was paroled on July 1, 1940, but was returned November 8, 1940, for robbery and parole violation. Again on September 7, 1945, he was paroled but failed to maintain contact with parole officials and his parole was suspended. He was not located until February 11, 1947; on this date he was arrested in Portland, Oregon, and imprisoned in Oregon State Penitentiary, July 1, 1947, for 10 years for assault and armed robbery. On February 8, 1952, he escaped from prison and a complaint was filed on June 17, 1952, charging Butler with fleeing from the State of Oregon to avoid confinement for assault and armed robbery. On April 21, 1953, the FBI arrested him in Los Angeles.

Described as one of the west coast's most notorious bandits, Butler had been added to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list on January 22, 1953.

He was returned to Oregon State Penitentiary on April 25, 1953, and his identification record indicates that he then went to California and committed the crime of robbery being sentenced to 5 years to life and then being paroled on February 4, 1957.

Enclosures (2)

CEM:mbb

(3) 66 FEB 17 1959

REC-14

FEB 12 1959

Memorandum for Mr. Nease

It is inconceivable, of course, that a man with Butler's background should receive clemency. A letter has been prepared for our San Francisco Office and the Portland Office to determine the circumstances of his imprisonment and parole since being arrested by the Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter be approved.

✓
send memo to A.G.
& Walsh.
✓
Jan

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 59L

A. J. [unclear] [unclear]
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 1167 629

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Berkeley Calif	Lawson David Shirk Butler #1362D24	4-16-25	burg 1st deg	rel to parents 4-16-25
PD Berkeley Calif	Lawson Butler #1605M19	3-10-28	burg	to Detention Home
PD Berkeley Calif	Lawson David Shirk Butler #1664	4-19-29	robb 1st deg	held to ans 5-25-29 *committed to Preston Ref 5-17-29
SO Oakland Calif	Lawson D. Butler #13105	4-20-29	robb	
PD Oakland Calif	Lawson Butler #13325	6-29-31	robb (2 chgs)	held ans 2 ch 7-13-31 Prest Ref 2 yrs 8-6-31 8-10-31 dism acct of plea in another case
SO Oakland Calif	Lawson Butler #16034 #16034	7-13-31	robb (2) chs	9-28-31 Pres
PD Berkeley Calif	Lawson David Butler #3095	12-20-34	robb 1st deg 2nd chg via Fed poss of sawed shotgun	12-26-34 to Oakland
*	12-26-34 Oakland Calif #13323 Lawson Butler Robb held to ans in \$5000 bail 1-4-35 Pr 1-29-35			San Quentin
SO Oakland Calif	Lawson Butler #21455	1-4-35	robb	2-1-35 San Quentin

76-22707-2

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on information formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

76-22707-2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 59L

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

1167 629

The following FBI record, NUMBER

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SP, San Quentin, Calif.	Lawson Butler #57219	2-1-35	robb. 1st deg.	5 life, 8-28-36, term fixed at 10 yrs 7-1-40 par. to go to Guana Valley, Oreg. ret. as PV with new commit. as #57219-A, robb. 1st. (213-PC) and Pr. Felony Conviction-- 5-life, CC with present term. 2-15-44, term fixed at 15 yrs 9-7-45, re-paroled to San Fran. California. 10-6-45.
PD, Oakland, Calif.	Lawson Butler #29864	10-30-40	inv. robb. parole susp.	11-8-40, sent to San Quentin Pr. on chg. robb. 1st. deg.
Alameda Co Jail, Oakland, Calif.	Lawson Butler #31355	11-6-40	robb. and prior	11-8-40, San Quentin as prescribed by law for robb. 1st. deg.
DCGO, 12th ND, San Fran., Calif.	Lawson Butler #012-1-12501640	ident. card 9-7-45		
PD, Portland, Oregon	Lawson David Butler, #24280	2-11-47	aslt. and rob AWDW	
SO, Portland, Oregon	Lawson David Butler, #24796	2-18-47	aslt. and robb. armed with a dang. weapon	sent. to 10 yrs Oreg. SP 6-28-47
SP Salem Oregon	Lawson Butler #18980	2-1-47	aslt & robb being armed with a dang weapon	10 yrs

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 59L

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

167 629

The following FBI record, NUMBER

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Los Angeles, Calif	Lawson David Butler #20560	4-21-53	flight to avoid pros (armed robbery)	4-25-53 rel for extradition to Oregon St Per Officials on chg of URAC-armed robbery
Los Angeles Calif	Lawson David Butler #B-266725	4-21-53	flight to avoid prosecution	
Calif St Bu	Lawson Butler #57219-A	3-30-56	PV (robb 1st (213-PC)& PFC)	TFT @ Folsom (5-life CC/CS WPT 2-4-57 paroled
Berkeley Calif	Lawson David Butler #3096	12-18-58	PV & rob CS K-35464 & K-35780	no compl filed on 1st chg on 2nd chg rel to Calif St Par 12-29-58
Oakland Calif	Lawson Butler #102343	12-29-58	viol parole	

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76-22707

15-7024-3 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

18 59L

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 167 629, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<p>WANTED: Oakland Calif for robb (no date) Notified 1-3-35 7-8-33 Wanted Berkeley for robb QT app (as on prt #3096) WANTED: As Lawson Butler for robbery. Notify PD Oakland Calif per inf rec therefrom 11-15-45. In cust per prt #18980 SP Salem Oreg. Admits: Nov. 1940 PD Oakland Calif Lawson D. Butler Chg. Armed Robbery sent to 5 yrs to Life at San Quentin Served 6 yrs paroled. WANTED: Lawson Butler for Escape from SP Salem Oregon 2-28-52 (aslt and robb being armed with a gang weapon) Notify SP Salem Oregon per inf rec therefrom 2-13-52. NO LONGER WANTED: Per Memo dated 4-21-53 (located 4-21-53 by Fed Auth. Los Angeles Calif). WANTED: Lawson Butler for Parole Viol. Notify Chief St Par Off Room 417 St Bldg #1 Sacramento Calif per inf rec therefrom 4-1-52. In Custody per prt #20560 USM Los Angeles Calif. Subject's merchant seaman's number is Z-510 666. WANTED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION: Lawson David Shirk for unlawful flight to avoid confinement (aslt & armed robbery). I.O. #2540 9-26-52. NO LONGER WANTED: Located at Los Angeles Calif 4-21-53 per inf rec dated 4-21-53.</p> <p>FLASH: Lawson Butler (#57319-A) if arrested prior to 3-4-60 notify St Bu Sacramento Calif per inf rec 12-23-57.</p>			

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 59L

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 167 629

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
CC: Calif St Bu				

76-22707-2

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 59L

1-BU

167 629

Edgerton 24 *August*
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	<p>WANTED BY BUREAU: Lawson David Shirk Butler Fug. Index #32354, Bu File #88-7035, OO Portland, Oreg. inf rec 3-18-52. NO LONGER WANTED: Per Bu Memo dated 4-21-53 (located 4-21-53 by Bu Agts Los Angeles Calif)</p>			
FBI Los Angeles Calif	Lawson David Shirk Butler #88-1596	4-21-53	UFAR-AR	awaiting removal to Oreg St Pen returned to Oreg St Pen 4-25-53

THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI Files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar name or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

1959L

Phyllanthus

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DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI

7-22-03-2

NOTATIONS INDICATED BY * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI FILES. THE NOTATIONS ARE BASED ON INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED THIS BUREAU CONCERNING INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME OR SIMILAR NAMES OR ADDRESSES AND ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

18 59L

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

167 629

The following FBI record, NUMBER

, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
<p>Crime Records Top Ten Superv Div 4</p>				

76-22707-2

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nease

DATE: January 22, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

Tolson _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Nease _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

SUBJECT: LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER
 FORMERLY ON "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" LIST
 PAROLE MATTER

Reference is made to my memorandum to you of January 14, 1959, in which it was pointed out that this vicious criminal who was apprehended by the Bureau in 1953 has been paroled, committed a robbery and violated his parole. This is, of course, an excellent case of parole abuse and in line with the Director's instructions, a memorandum on Butler was sent to the Attorney General on January 16, 1959.

At the present time, our San Francisco and Portland Offices are investigating to determine the full and complete history of Butler since his release from prison. It is felt that we should speed up the field's investigation so that we might provide this information to a friendly newspaper source, Mr. Edmond D. Coblentz, Temelec Farm, Box 37, Sonoma, California, for a possible editorial.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached airtel to San Francisco and Portland be approved.

Enclosure sent 1-22-59
dm

1 - Mr. Nease

CEM:mrh
 (4)

REC-75

67-133

25 FEB 13 1959

66 FEB 17 1959

76-22707-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 29 1959

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Parsons	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tamm	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

URGENT 1-29-59 7-37 PM PST CWB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM SAC, SAN FRANCISCO *AP*

LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER, FORMERLY ON QUOTE TEN MOST WANTED
FUGITIVES UNQUOTE LIST, PAROLE MATTER, RESEARCH PAREN CRIME RECORDS
END PAREN. RE SF AIRTEL TO BUREAU ONE DASH TWO EIGHT, FIVE NINE.
CALIFORNIA PRISON FILE OF SUBJECT, NUMBER FIVE SEVEN TWO ONE NINE DASH
A, REFLECTS SERIES MINOR OFFENSES AGE TEN UNTIL FOLLOWING IN CALIFORNIA:
4-16-25
FOUR DASH ONE SIX DASH TWO FIVE, BERKELEY, BURGLARY FIRST DEGREE,
3-10-28
RELEASED TO PARENTS - THREE DASH TEN DASH TWENTY EIGHT, BERKELEY,
4-19-29
BURGLARY, OVER TO DETENTION HOME - FOUR DASH NINETEEN DASH TWENTY NINE,
5-29-29
BERKELEY, ROBBERY FIRST DEGREE, HELD TO ANSWER FIVE DASH TWENTY NINE
DASH TWENTY NINE AND COMMITTED TO PRESTON SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY - FIVE DASH
5-24-29
TWENTY FOUR DASH TWENTY NINE, PRESTON, ETC., DURING MINORITY. PAROLED
7-18-30 *6-29-31*
SEVEN DASH EIGHTEEN DASH THIRTY - SIX DASH TWENTY NINE DASH THIRTY ONE,
9-29-31
OAKLAND, ROBBERY TWO COUNTS - NINE DASH TWENTY NINE DASH THIRTY ONE,
12-6-32
PRESTON SCHOOL, ETC., RECOMMITTED. PAROLED TWELVE DASH SIX DASH THIRTY
7-6-33 *76-22707-4*
TWO, DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE, NINE DASH ONE DASH THIRTY THREE - SEVEN
DASH EIGHT DASH THIRTY THREE, BERKELEY, WANTED FOR ROBBERY AND GRAND

END PAGE ONE

63 FEB 10 1959

PAGE TWO

12-20-34 / NO such date
Data in memo passed
on dated record in
this volume
JTM

THEFT - TWELVE DASH TWENTY DASH THIRTY FOUR, BERKELEY, ROBBERY FIRST
DEGREE, - TWO DASH ~~THIRTY ONE~~ THIRTY FIVE, RECEIVED SAN
QUENTIN, TERM FIVE TO LIFE - EIGHT DASH TWENTY EIGHT DASH THIRTY SIX,
TERM FIXED AT TEN YEARS - EIGHT DASH NINETEEN DASH THIRTYEIGHT, DENIED
PAROLE - EIGHT DASH THIRTY DASH THIRTYNINE, GRANTED ONE YEAR PAROLE AND
RELEASED JULY ONE, NINETEEN FORTY - TEN DASH THIRTY DASH FORTY, ARRESTED
OAKLAND, ROBBERY FIRST - ELEVEN DASH TEN DASH FORTY, RETURNED TO SAN
QUENTIN, FIVE TO LIFE TO SERVE CONCURRENT WITH PRIOR TERM - TWELVE DASH
THIRTEEN DASH FORTY, PAROLE REVOKED, RECONSIDERATION DENIED AND CREDITS
FORFEITED- THREE DASH TWENTYSEVEN DASH FORTYTWO, DENIED PAROLE,
CONTINUED TWO YEARS - TEN DASH TWENTYTHREE DASH FORTYTHREE, RESTORED TO
CREDIT EARNING BASIS - NINE DASH SEVEN DASH FORTYFIVE, REPAROLED, FOR
PLACEMENT IN MERCHANT MARINE - TEN DASH SIX DASH FORTYFIVE, PAROLE
SUSPENDED. HAD ABSCONDED AND IDENTIFIED AS HAVING SEMI-AMPHETAMINE TO
PRISON INMATE - SUBJECT AT LARGE UNTIL ARRESTED PORTLAND, OREGON, PD,
ARMED ROBBERY TWO DASH ELEVEN, FORTYNINE. ALSO ASSAULTED DEPUTY SHERIFF
WHILE ENROUTE TO COURT FOR SENTENCING. RECEIVED TEN YEARS, SIX DASH
TWENTYEIGHT DASH FORTYSEVEN. ATTEMPTED ESCAPE TWICE BEFORE SUCCESSFUL
THIRD TIME ON TWO DASH EIGHT DASH FIFTYTWO. RETURNED FOUR DASH
TWENTYEIGHT DASH FIFTYTHREE AS ESCAPEE AFTER APPREHENSION BY FBI.
END PAGE TWO

76-22707-4

PAGE THREE

2-17-56
SCHEDULED FOR DISCHARGE TWO DASH SEVENTEEN DASH FIFTYSIX AND RELEASED TO CALIFORNIA THREE DASH TWENTYEIGHT DASH FIFTYSIX. THREE DASH THIRTY DASH FIFTYSIX, RECEIVED FOLSOM PRISON - FOUR DASH THREE DASH FIFTYSIX, TRANSFERRED TO SAN QUENTIN - SEVEN DASH THIRTEEN DASH FIFTYSIX. RETURNED TO FOLSOM - THREE DASH TWELVE DASH FIFTYSEVEN, TERM REFIXED AT FIFTEEN YEARS, GRANTED TWO YEARS, THREE MONTHS ON PAROLE. DECEMBER FOUR, ONE NINE FIVE SEVEN, PAROLED, WITH SCHEDULED DISCHARGE MARCH FOUR, ONE NINE SIX ZERO. RESIDES WITH MOTHER AND HAD FOLLOWING EMPLOYMENT - WINK-S DEPARTMENT STORE, OAKLAND, ONE AND ONE HALF MONTHS - JOHNSON GEAR COMPANY, BERKELEY, TO FIRST WEEK OF JUNE, ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT - CALIFORNIA CONTAINERS COMPANY, EVERYVILLE, TWO WEEKS TEMPORARY, AND THE DONUT CORPORATION, OAKLAND, TO DECEMBER, ONE NINE FIVE EIGHT. JANUARY FIFTEEN, ONE NINE FIVE NINE, PAROLE SUSPENDED FOR ROBBERY, ASSOCIATION WITH FORMER INMATES, AND ASSUMING A LOAN WITHOUT PERMISSION OF PAROLE OFFICER. JANUARY TWENTYONE, ONE NINE FIVE NINE, RECEIVED SAN QUENTIN. JANUARY TWENTYTHREE, ONE NINE FIVE NINE RECEIVED C.M.F. VACAVILLE. CORRESPONDENTS AND VISITORS DURING CONFINEMENT CONSISTED OF RELATIVES ONLY. DISCIPLINARY RECORD LISTS ONLY INFRACTIONS AS FOURTEEN DAYS SOLITARY, ONE NINE THREE FIVE, FOR FORGING SIGNATURE ON COMMISSARY SLIP AND TWENTY DAYS IN ONE NINE FOUR ONE FOR ASSAULTING INMATE. OREGON
12-4-57
3-4-1960
1-15-59
6-22707-4
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

PSYCHIATRIC REPORT DESCRIBES SUBJECT AS QUOTE A PSYCHOPATHIC PERSONALITY WITH MARKED IMMATUREITY OF BEHAVIOR UNQUOTE, AND CALIFORNIA SUMMARIZES AS QUOTE SERIOUS PERSONALITY DISORDER WITH PRONOUNCED IMMATUREITY FEATURES UNQUOTE. A. GEORGE OAKLEY, CHIEF RECORDS OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, ADVISED PAROLE FOR INMATE CONSIDERED BY ADULT AUTHORITY AT MEETINGS WHERE INMATE QUESTIONED, HIS FILE REVIEWED, AND DECISION MADE AS TO ELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE. NO MINUTES ARE KEPT AND NO REPORT OF DELIBERATIONS MADE. ONLY RECORD IS OF FINAL DECISION FOR OR AGAINST PAROLE AND ENTRIES THEN MADE IN INMATE-S FILE. OAKLEY STATES THAT CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH PAROLE GRANTED ARE CONFINED TO ORAL DISCUSSION BY BOARD AND, SINCE NO RECORD MAINTAINED, THERE IS NO METHOD OF DETERMINING BASIS OTHER THAN THAT DECISION IS MADE FOR OR AGAINST AND PERIOD OF PAROLE ESTABLISHED, BASED UPON INMATES RECORD. IN RE DECEMBER ONE NINE FIVE SEVEN PAROLE, FACTOR MAY BE REPORT PREPARED OCTOBER FOUR ONE NINE FIVE SEVEN, BY PRISON OFFICIAL REFLECTING SUBJECT HAD GOOD SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT FOR PERIOD WHILE ESCAPEE FROM ORF IN AND HAD RECENT GROUP COUNSELING COURSE WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE PROVIDED HIM WITH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS.

END AND ACK

10-52PM OK FBI WA CRA

TJ DISC

16-23707-4

CC MR JAMES

SAC, San Francisco

January 1

Director, FBI

LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER
FORMERLY ON "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" LIST
PAROLE MATTER
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Butler's Identification Record, FBI Number 157 629, reflects that the California State Bureau contributed his fingerprints, their number 57219-A under date of 3-30-56 on the charge "PV (robb 1st (213-PC) & PFC." Disposition was reflected as "TFT @ Folsom (5-life CC/CS WPT 2-4-57 paroled." The Police Department, Berkeley, California, submitted his prints under date of 12-18-58, their number 3096 with the charge being "PV & rob Cs K-35484 & K-35780." The disposition was reflected as "no compl filed on 1st chg on 2nd chg rel to Calif St Par Of 12-29-58." The Sheriff's Office, Oakland, California, under date of 12-29-58 submitted his prints, their number 102343 with the charge being "viol parole," no disposition reflected.

The Bureau is interested in obtaining further details concerning Butler's recent activities as a parole research matter. You are instructed to advise the Bureau of his record while incarcerated in the State of California, the crimes of robbery for which he has apparently been arrested and the circumstances of his being given parole; also clarify the latest disposition.

76-22707-5
The Portland Office should determine Butler's record while he was incarcerated in that state as well as the circumstances of his release from the Oregon State Penitentiary.

REC-8
Under no circumstances must the reason for the Bureau's interest in this matter become known, and any inquiries which are conducted must be made most discreetly.

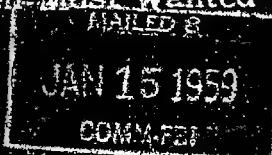
Submit your reply under the above caption to reach the Bureau no later than February 6, 1959.

1 - Portland

59 JAN 21 1959
Follow-up made for 2-9-59.

NOTE: See Jones to Nease memo dated 1-14-59 captioned "Lawson David Shirk Butler, Former Member of "Ten-Most Wanted Fugitives" Program.

CEM:mbh
(6)



TELETYPE UNIT

January 22, 1959

AIRTEL

To: SAC, San Francisco
From: Director, FBI

LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER
FORMERLY ON TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES LIST
PAROLE MATTER
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Rebulet 1-15-59.

The Bureau desires that this investigation be completed immediately, and the deadline date for your communication to arrive at the Bureau is being moved up to 1-29-59. This deadline must be met without fail.

1 - Portland

MAILED 5
JAN 22 1959
COMM-FBI

Follow-up made for 1-29-59

NOTE: See Jones to Nease memorandum dated 1-22-59 captioned "Lawson David Shirk Butler, Formerly on 'Ten Most Wanted Fugitives' List, Parole Matter."

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

CEM:mrh
(7)

NOTED 1-22-59

JUN 2 1959

TELETYPE UNIT

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (88-7035)

DATE: 1/27/59

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (88-726)

SUBJECT: LAWSON DAVID SHERK BUTLER
 FORMERLY ON "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" LIST
 PAROLE MATTER
 RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

ReBulet to San Francisco 1-16-59 and Buairtel 1-22-59.

The following investigation was conducted by SA VERN
 F. DAVIS at Salem, Oregon, on 1-26-59.

Mr. RICHARD SMITH, Records Office, Oregon State Pen, Salem, Oregon, made available records of that institution concerning the subject which reflected that BUTLER was involved in armed robbery of the Bradley Pie Co., Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, using a loaded automatic pistol to effect the robbery, and was convicted of the charge Assault and Robbery Being Armed With a Dangerous Weapon and was sentenced to serve ten years at Oregon State Pen, being received there 7-1-47, at which time he was 36 years of age, born 7-22-10 at Berkeley, Calif. It is noted that while on the way to court for sentencing above BUTLER threw pepper in the face of the officer who was transporting him and attempted to escape but was not successful.

BUTLER, FBI # 167629, was assigned Or on State Pen # 18980, upon arrival at the Salem Penitential. This was his first recorded offense in Oregon. The records showed that on 12-16-47 BUTLER was sent to the Correctional Cell for attempted escape; he had started digging a tunnel out through the floor of his cell when he was caught and had in his cell a wire cutter, a steel file, rope, chisel, and a hammer. Again, on 2-5-49 he was sent to the correctional cell for attempted escape, having drilled through the steel floor, removed 25 bricks and was in the process of digging his way out when discovered in his plan. In his cell were a hacksaw blade and frame, a large wood rasp, a large punch, a small punch, a three

2-Bureau (AM)

1-Portland

VFD:jdt
(3)

EX 105

REC-9

76-22707-7

88-7035

JAN 29 1959

cornered file, a brace, 10 assorted-size drills, a crow bar, a crescent wrench, two bar spreaders, a home-made rope, rubber gloves and some taped wire.

BUTLER's final and successful escape try at Oregon State Pen occurred on 2-8-52 in the early-morning hours in heavy fog. He had cut his way out of the prison print shop into the prison yard and by means of fashioning a crude ladder out of two pieces of lumber, and with improvised metal hooks and rope was able to scale the prison wall and make his escape. As result of intense FBI investigation, BUTLER was returned to custody at Oregon State Pen 4-25-53. Because of his escape he was convicted of escape in Marion County, Oregon, and sentenced to serve an additional year at Oregon State Pen on 6-5-53; his release date prior to this would have been 5-18-55, but because of the additional year he was released on full discharge on 3-29-56.

During the time BUTLER was in Oregon State Pen he was assigned to work at the flax mill, in the yard as cleanup man, in the prison commissary, in the main-line kitchen, in the prison print shop and as an orderly in one of the cell blocks. Other than upon the time of his first being received at Oregon State Pen, and for about 30 days each at the times of his escape and attempts at escape, he was not put in "Isolation and Solitude." BUTLER was released on 3-29-56 at the time he earned a full discharge, to STILLMAN C. MOORE, Supervisor of California out-of-state unit, division of Adult Paroles, Sacramento, California. It is noted that Multnomah County, Oregon, which had previously had a detainer on BUTLER, had withdrawn this on 1-30-56.

ROBERT E. JONES, Deputy Director of Institutions and Paroles, State of Oregon, Salem, Oregon, made available records of his office which reflected that BUTLER was examined by the prison psychiatrist in 1948 at which time he was diagnosed as a "severe psychopathic personality." Again on 10-24-50 the prison psychiatrist diagnosed him as immature, impulsive, typical psychopathic personality with no normal mature judgment, lacking in ability to learn by experience and not a possible parole risk. A prison report on him to the parole office showed him as "poor" in both conduct and industry. As a result of the Parole Board action, BUTLER was required to serve his full sentence as above reflected and was released on full discharge upon serving all of his sentence, on 3-29-56.

FBI

Date: 1/28/59

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT

(Type in plain text or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

Via

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (88-1386)

RE: LAWSON DAVID SHIRK BUTLER
 FORMERLY ON "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" LIST
 PAROLE MATTER
 RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

ReBulet to San Francisco and Portland, 1/15/59 and
 Bureau airtel to San Francisco and Portland, 1/22/59.

On 1/27/59, ROBERT DOUDNA, Records Section, Alameda County SO, Oakland, California, advised that BUTLER, their number 102343, was received from the California State Parole Office on 12/29/58, as a parole violator and on 1/21/59, disposition "released to California State Parole Office".

On 1/26/59, JERRY HIGGINS, Parole Officer, California Adult Parole Division, Oakland, California, advised that BUTLER was received by him from the Berkeley, California Police Department as a parole violator on 12/29/58. BUTLER was subsequently incarcerated in the Alameda County Jail from 12/29/58 until 1/21/59, at which time BUTLER's parole was terminated and he was returned to San Quentin Penitentiary and on 1/23/59 BUTLER was transferred to the California Penal Medical Center located at Vacaville, California, at which penal institution BUTLER is presently incarcerated.

On 1/27/59, Inspector RICHARD YOUNG, Berkeley, California Police Department, advised that BUTLER, their number 3096, was apprehended at Berkeley, California, on 12/14/58 and charged with robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery. Both charges against BUTLER were subsequently dismissed upon recommendation of the Alameda County District Attorney's Office because "the case against BUTLER was not sufficiently strong to assure successful prosecution". On 12/29/58, BUTLER was released to the custody of the California State Parole Office as a parole violator.

3-Bureau (AMSD)
 1-San Francisco C. C. Wick

JCC:jks

(4)

EX-135

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

REC-76-22707-8
 88-7033
 76-22707-8
 JUN 31 1959
 CRIME RECORDS

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SF 88-1386

Inspector YOUNG advised that from 12/4/57, the date of BUTLER's release on parole from Folsom Prison, until 1/1/58, BUTLER was employed as a garage attendant and general handyman at the J.F. Hink and Son Department Store, Berkeley, California. He was employed from 8/25/58 until his previously mentioned apprehension at Berkeley, California on 12/14/58 by A.A. Johnson and Sons Concrete Contractors, 827 Delaware St., Berkeley, California, as a laborer and cement finisher at a salary of \$2.73½ per hour.

Inspector YOUNG advised that one RICHARD LOUIS BOWDEN, FBI # 22176C, who was paroled from Montana State Penitentiary during September, 1958, following his conviction and sentence to 5 years for robbery on 2/14/57, was introduced to BUTLER by one KENNETH SMITH (Oregon State Penitentiary number 21836), a fellow inmate of BUTLER at the Oregon State Penitentiary. According to Inspector YOUNG, SMITH's purpose in introducing BOWDEN and BUTLER was motivated by BOWDEN's desire to obtain a crime partner for the purpose of committing armed robbery. SMITH supplied a .45 caliber colt automatic pistol and BUTLER provided a getaway car and BUTLER and BOWDEN agreed to hold up the U'Save Center Market located in Berkeley, during the night of 12/14/58. BOWDEN, with the .45 caliber colt automatic pistol concealed under his waist-length jacket, had entered the market and was awaiting the opportune moment to stage the holdup when BUTLER, who was parked outside of the market in the getaway car, believed that he had "been made" by a passing police officer. BUTLER subsequently entered the market and induced BOWDEN to forego the holdup plans. BUTLER drove BOWDEN to his, BUTLER's, home where, although he declined to accompany BOWDEN on another holdup the same evening, he provided BOWDEN with his personally owned automobile and BOWDEN then proceeded unaccompanied to

-2-

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SF 88-1386

Sid's Shopping Center, Berkeley, California, where he committed armed robbery and obtained loot in the amount of \$786. Immediately following this holdup, BOWDEN provided BUTLER with cash in the amount of \$200 for the use of his automobile and he also provided SMITH with \$200 in cash for having provided him with the use of the previously mentioned .45 caliber colt automatic pistol.

During the period BUTLER was on parole from Folsom Prison he kept company, but there is no indication he was intimate, with one BETTY ANDERSON, a divorcee who resides at 1721 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley, California, which address is adjacent to BUTLER's place of residence, his mother's home located at 1721 $\frac{1}{2}$ Hearst Avenue.

On 1/27/59, JERRY HIGGINS, Parole Officer, California Adult Parole Division, Oakland, California, advised that BUTLER's file is presently in the process of being transferred from the Oakland Parole Office to the Office of the California Adult Authority, Sacramento, California via San Quentin Prison. Information requested by the Bureau in Rulat to San Francisco dated 1/15/59 pertaining to BUTLER's record while incarcerated in the State of California and the circumstances of his being given parole unavailable at this time but BUTLER's file will be reviewed at the Sacramento Office of the California Adult Authority. This information will be submitted to the Bureau by radio on either 1/29/59 or 1/30/59.

-3-

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Per _____